



File Code: 5100

Date: March 2, 2007

Dear Contractors and AD Personnel:

As we prepare for another fire season, it is time once again for the **ANNUAL FIRELINE REFRESHER** training (Standards for Survival). Contractors and AD personnel are required to attend this course **each year**, as is required of our employees. This training is also required by anyone in addition to yourself who may be operating your contracted equipment. **If you do not attend this training, you WILL NOT be issued an Emergency Equipment Rental Agreement (EERA), and we will be unable to contract your equipment.**

Eastern Idaho Technical College (EITC) will be offering two sessions again this year. They will occur on **Saturday, March 24th** from 8:00 am until 12:00, and **Saturday, April 21st** from 8:00 am until 12:00. Cost of this course will be \$35.00 per person. Please register no later than **March 15th** for the March class, and **April 10th** for the April class by contacting **Janice Leonard of EITC directly at 208-524-3000, ext. 3344**. You will need to provide a copy of your certificate for the class when signing up your equipment under an EERA.

In addition, any equipment contracted that runs "on highway", ie; pickups, water trucks, transports, etc., must have operators who have a current **Defensive Driving Certificate**. This certificate requires renewal every three years. If you or your operators do not hold a current card, you can go to www.nsc.org (National Safety Council) to take the course online and receive a certificate. The driver/operator must possess this card in order to operate the equipment. Please provide this office with a copy of this certificate as well.

We **will be** requiring pre-inspections this year for equipment contracted through the IDAWY Contracting Center in Idaho Falls. We are coordinating with the Regional Office in Ogden, UT, and as a courtesy will inspect any equipment that have EERA's completed through Ogden; tactical water trucks, engines, buses (commercial/school). It will then be your responsibility to send your inspection form to that office.

New this year, support water tenders (dust abatement) will be contracted through the BLM office in Nevada for our Geographic Area. We will also inspect that equipment locally for you, and again, it will be your responsibility to send your inspection form to that office. Solicitations for these, as well as the equipment contracted through the Regional Office in Ogden, will be posted on the Federal Business Opportunities Website at: www.fedbizopps.gov/. Please make sure you utilize this site to gather the information and specifications you will need to contract your equipment.

Dates and locations for the inspections are as follows: **Tuesday, April 10th – St. Anthony – Forest Service Warehouse, Teton Highway; Wednesday, April 11th – Idaho Falls – Eastern Idaho Interagency Fire Center, 1405 Hollipark Drive, and Thursday, April 12th – Pocatello – Forest Service Warehouse – 4350 Cliffs Drive.** Hours of inspection will be from **8:00-4:30** each day. Please make every effort to have your equipment ready for inspection on one of those days. We have enclosed a copy of the inspection form to be used as a guide for you to prepare your equipment for inspection. It is extremely important your equipment is in good condition when reporting to an incident to avoid rejection. Also enclosed is an equipment worksheet that you may use to submit information for any additional equipment you wish to contract, or changes for any equipment currently listed.



Below are some “tickler” items that the inspectors will be looking for:

- NO windshield chips or cracks
- Operable seat belts
- Oil levels/quality/leaks
- Head and tail lights
- Horn
- Mirrors
- Wipers
- Brakes
- Tires (we will be documenting the tread)

Failure in any one of these areas, or any of those listed on the inspection checklist will cause your equipment to fail the inspection, not allowing the equipment to be hired for an incident until repaired. After the inspection, you will then have the opportunity to correct any problems found at the time to bring you equipment up to standard. Once you have corrected the problem, notify Jackie Young of the corrective action.

We realize that this can cause an inconvenience and expense up front, but we remain committed to only contracting equipment that is safe, cost effective and efficient, and believe that these inspections will benefit both yourself and the Government by ensuring good, operable equipment.

Visit our website for the Eastern Idaho Interagency Fire Center for this and other fire, equipment contracting, etc. information at www.eastidahofire.blm.gov.

Please submit all the necessary documents, and refer any questions to Jackie Young, at 208-524-7500. We look forward to working with you this year.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chris Ourada
CHRIS OURADA
Fire & Aviation Program Leader

Enclosures